

DCS Appoints New Regional Administrators

Nashville, Tenn - The Department of Children's Services has promoted four employees from interim to permanent regional administrators in their respective regions. Sherri Hale (Northeast), Sandra Jordan (Upper Cumberland), Kirk Lane (East) and Stacey White (Mid-Cumberland) were promoted in October. Regional administrators serve the 12 DCS regions throughout Tennessee and are responsible for a variety of functions, including managing program operations, fiscal matters and staff in each of the regional offices and any satellite offices the region might have.

"I am pleased with the appointment of these individuals to these posts. Regional offices are instrumental in ensuring the safety and security of children and families in their respective communities and the state at large," said Commissioner Viola P. Miller.

Sherri Hale of the Northeast region has worked for the State of Tennessee for 21 years in a variety of positions, including Child Protective Services follow-up case manager, public relations officer, supervisor and team coordinator.

"I am excited to accept the challenge of serving as regional administrator, because I believe that DCS should be an active leader in building stronger families and communities," Hale said. "As regional administrator, I want to work closely with our employees to build a department that is based on integrity and doing the right thing for the children and families in our state."

Before being appointed as regional administrator for the East Tennessee region, Kirk Lane had worked for DCS for 12 years in field services as team coordinator for both the Northeast and East regions. He also had served as a counseling manager at Mountain View Youth Development Center and retired from the Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County in 1992 with more than 19 years of experience. A certified marital and family therapist, Lane is also a graduate of the National Child Advocacy Center Management Academy and a certified professional administrator of juvenile justice through the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

"Everything we do is relationship oriented. We work alongside courts, law enforcement, schools and other community agencies. We serve the same families and the same children," Lane said.

"As individuals, we are severely limited as to what we can accomplish alone; however, as a team of individuals and as organizations working together, we can accomplish much more. The children of our communities deserve no less than our best efforts. By working cooperatively, we can do so much more for them and help them reach their potential."

Sandra Jordan graduated from Tennessee Technological University in 1989 with a bachelor of science degree in business management. She then joined the Department of Human Services in 1989 as a social counselor. In 1996, Jordan joined DCS as a program coordinator, a position in which she acted as assistant to the regional administrator.

"I look forward to continuing in my role as the regional administrator for the Upper Cumberland region. I plan to work very hard to make sure that we as a department make positive differences in the lives of children and families in this area," Jordan said. "The job we do is very challenging, but with the work of our dedicated employees partnering with our local communities, we can deliver the highest quality service."

Stacey White joined DCS in 1996 with a history in child welfare and working with young adults. From 1996-2000, White worked in the Resource Division of the DCS Central Office and transitioned as a social services team leader for the Wilson County field office before assuming a deputy regional administrator position for the Mid-Cumberland Region in 2002.

White said she looks forward to using her position to positively influence outcomes for children and families. "I am working hard to share with others the core values of child-specific, family-centered, community-based social work," she said.

The Tennessee Department of Children's Services was established to provide the best possible care for children and youth who are in state custody, or at significant risk of entering custody, and their families. Services provided by DCS include child protective services, foster care, adoption, programs for delinquent youth, probation/aftercare, and treatment and rehabilitation programs for identified youth.

For headshots of the newly appointed regional administrators or more information, contact K. Danielle Edwards at K.Danielle.Edwards@state.tn.us or (615) 741-9192.